

## **Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating tinnitus induced by cochlear excitotoxicity in a human, the method comprising administering to a human a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the NMDA receptor antagonist ketamine, effective to suppress or reduce NMDA receptor mediated aberrant activity of the auditory nerve in a human in need of such treatment and correlating the administration of ketamine with a reduction in tinnitus and with suppressed or reduced NMDA receptor-mediated aberrant activity of the auditory nerve.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is provoked by an occurrence selected from the group consisting of acoustic trauma, presbycusis, ischemia, anoxia, and sudden deafness.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically/locally via the round window membrane or the oval window membrane to the inner ear.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered topically/locally by means of invasive drug delivery techniques to the inner ear.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is characterized as acute.
8. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is characterized as repeated.
9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the cochlear excitotoxicity is characterized as prolonged or chronic.